the faster growth of non-agricultural sectors, which is generally observed in the process of economic development. However, Government have been implementing various programmes for increasing agricultural production and productivity, and as a consequence, contribution of agriculture to GDP in absolute terms has been showing an increasing trend.

National Seed Board

1790. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up National Seed Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to make it mandatory for seed companies to go through trials in ICAR approved labs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft Bill to replace the existing Seeds Act provides for the establishment of the National Seeds Board in replacement of the Central Seed Committee and Central Seed Certification Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Seeds of all kinds and varieties shall be subject to compulsory registration on the basis of information provided by the producer on the results of multi locational trials to establish Value for Cultivation and Usage.

Agriculture Policy for NER

1791. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers who attended a two-day semiar in Guwahati